

Message Text

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EXDIS

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TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (ZUMWALT, ELMO), CH, US, UR, TW

SUBJ: ZUMWALT VISIT TO PRC

REF: PEKING 1314

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. RETIRED ADMIRAL AND FORMER CHIEF OF
NAVAL OPERATIONS ELMO ZUMWALT ARRIVED IN PEKING ON
JUNE 29 IN RESPONSE TO A LONG-STANDING INVITATION BY
FOREIGN MINISTER (THEN-AMBASSADOR TO THE UN) HUANG HUA.
CHINESE HOSTS IN INITIAL SESSIONS MADE PLAIN THAT THEY
BRACKET ZUMWALT WITH FORMER DEFENSE SECRETARY SCHLESINGER
AND WILL ARRANGE A SIMILAR ITINERARY FOR HIM. BUT
DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIAL CHAI CHEN-WEN ADOPTED AN UN-
USUALLY ABRASIVE STYLE WITH ZUMWALT, RECITING A LITANY OF
"REACTIONARIES" THE US GOVERNMENT HAS SUPPORTED SINCE
THE KOREAN WAR (SYNGMAN RHEE) AND CHALLENGING ZUMWALT TO
EXPLAIN WHY THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT APPLIED THE LESSONS
OF ITS "FAILURES" IN KOREA AND INDOCHINA TO ITS
HANDLING OF THE TAIWAN SITUATION. ZUMWALT'S REJOINDER -
AN EXPRESSION OF ADMIRATION FOR CHINESE HANDLING OF
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THEIR "MAD DOG ON A LEASH KIM IL-SONG" --ELICITED FROM
CHAI A HEATED THREAT TO BREAK OFF THE BANQUET. FOLLOW-
ING AGREEMENT THAT "MILITARY MEN" COULD BE BLUNT WITH
EACH OTHER, THE TONE AND CONTENT OF ENSUING CONVERSA-
TION RETURNED TO NORMAL. ZUMWALT WILL MEET FOREIGN
MINISTER HUANG ON JULY 2. THE CPIFA HAS INDICATED THAT
THE PROVINCIAL ITINERARY WILL INCLUDE HUHEHOT, HARBIN,

TACHING, SHENYANG, TALIEN, SOOCHOW, AND SHANGHAI. END
SUMMARY.

2. RETIRED ADMIRAL AND FORMER CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
ELMO ZUMWALT CALLED AT USLO ON JUNE 30 AND PROVIDED AN
ACCOUNT OF HIS MEETINGS TO DATE WITH CHINESE OFFICIALS.

3. ZUMWALT AND HIS FAMILY MEMBERS ARRIVED IN PEKING
ON JUNE 29 (REFTEL) IN RESPONSE TO A LONG STANDING IN-
VITATION BY FOREIGN MINISTER (THEN-AMBASSADOR TO THE
UN) HUANG HUA. ZUMWALT'S TRIP WAS ORIGINALLY ENVISAGED
BY THE CHINESE TO TAKE PLACE IN THE SAME TIME FRAME AS
THAT OF FORMER DEFENSE SCRETARY SCHLESINGER, BUT
ZUMWALT'S CAMPAIGN FOR THE U.S. SENATE PRECULDED HIS
VISITING CHINA LAST AUTUM. RECALLING THIS BACKGROUND,
CPIFA OFFICIALS FROM THE BEGINNING MADE PLAIN TO ZUMWALT
THAT THEY BRACKET HIM WITH SCHLESINGER AND WOULD ARRANGE
HIS ITINERARY ACCORDINGLY.

4. PPIFA OFFICIALS SEEMED MOST INTERESTED IN PROBING
ZUMWALT'S STANCE ON THE SOVIET UNION, HIS CONNECTIONS
WITH SEN. JACKSON AND WITH DR. SCHLESINGER, AND HIS
POSITION ON THE COMMITTEE ON THE PRESENT DANGER.

5. DESPITE CHINESE APPRECIATION OF ZUMWALT'S PUBLIC
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STANCE ON THE SOVIEET UNION, ZUMWALT'S HOSTS ADOPTED
AN UNUSUALLY ABRASIVE STYLE IN THEIR INITIAL MEETING
AND WELCOMING BANQUET. CPIFA VICE PRESIDENT KO PO-NIEN
OPENED WITH HIS SET-PIECE CONCERNING WARTIME SUPPLY OF
US WEAPONS TO THE COMMUNISTS THROUGH "QUARTERMASTER
CHIANG KAI-SHEK". CHAI CHEN-WEN, DIRECTOR OF THE
FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUREAU OF THE DEFENSE MINISTRY, THEN
LAUNCHED INTO A RECITATION OF "REACTIONARIES" SUPPORTED
BY THE UNITED STATES BEGINNING WITH THE KOREAN WAR.
(COMMENT: CHAI FOUGHT IN THE KOREAN WAR AND PARTI-
CIPATED IN THE PANMUNJON TALKS, AND HAS RARELY IF EVER
MET VISITING AMERICANS. THIS MAY ACCOUNT FOR HIS TONE
AND STYLE). TICKING OFF SYGMAN RHEE, CHIANG KAI-
SHEK, NGO DINH DIEM, PAK CHUNG HI, NGUYEN VAN THIEU,
AND CHIANG CHING-KUO AS SUCH "REACTIONARIES", CHAI
CHALLENGED ZUMWALT TO EXPLAIN WHY THE UNITED STATES HAD
NOT APPLIED THE LESSONS OF ITS "FAILURES" IN KOREA AND
INDOCHINA TO ITS HANDLING OF THE TAIWAN SITUATION TODAY.
6. TO THIS ZUMWALT OBSERVED THAT CHAI HAD OVERLOOKED
ONE OTHER REACTIONARY --KIM IL-SONG -- AND EXPRESSED
ADMIRATION FOR CHINESE SKILL IN RESTRAINING THIS "MAD
DOG ON A LEASH". CHAI RETORTED THAT THE BANQUET WOULD

HAVE TO CEASE IF THAT TYPE OF DIALOGUE CONTINUED.
(COMMENT: AT THIS MFA US DESK OFFICER/INTERPRETER NI YAO-LI AND CPIFA DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL KANG TAI-SHA WERE VISIBLY DISTRAUGHT). AFTER SOME FURTHER SPARRING, CHAI ACCEPTED ZUMWALT'S STATEMENT THAT MILITARY MEN COULD BE BLUNT WITH EACH OTHER AND THAT CHAI, A FIGHTING MAN HIMSELF, SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED SOME RETORT FROM ANOTHER FIGHTING MAN TO HIS REPEATED CRITICISMS OF US POLICY. THE REMAINDER OF THE BANQUET CONVERSATION WAS UNEXCEPTIONAL, WITH TANG WEN-SHENG (NANCY TANG) AND OTHERS MAKING THE CUSTOMARY POINTS ABOUT THE SOVIET UNION AND TAIWAN.

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7. A MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG HUA HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR JULY 2. ZUMWALT'S ITINERARY IN THE PROVINCES WILL INCLUDE HUHEHOT, HARBIN, TACHING, SHENYANG, TALIEN, SOOCHOW AND SHANGHAI.

8. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE TONE AND THE SPECIFIC NAMING OF US-SUPPORTED "REACTIINARIES" IS UNUSUAL, WE SURMISE THAT IT REFLECTS NO POLICY CHANGE BUT RATHER THE STYLE OF MILITARY MAN CHAI CHEN-WEN. BEYOND THIS, ZUMWALT SUSPECTS THAT CHAI MAY HAVE DELIBERATELY GOADED HIM TO TEST HIS METTLE. BY THE END OF THE BANQUET CHAI HAD MADE A POINT OF EXPRESSING "FRIENDSHIP" FOR HIM.

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